

a mesh portion coupled to the sheath, the mesh portion having first and second longitudinal ends and an intermediate portion longitudinally between the first and second ends, and being movable between a retracted position and an expanded position, the intermediate portion being displaced radially outwardly relative to the first and second longitudinal ends when the mesh portion is in the expanded position;

an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to at least one of the mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of the mesh portion between the retracted position and the expanded position;

introducing the sheath and the mesh portion into the body tract, the mesh portion being in the retracted position during introduction;

forming an object supporting surface by moving the elongate member relative to the sheath so the mesh portion expands; and

supporting the object with the object supporting surface allowing access to a majority of a surface of the object, from an interior of the body tract, while substantially immobilizing the object.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein providing a catheter comprises:
providing a handle connected to the sheath; and
providing a handle connected to the elongate member.

25. The method of Claim 23 wherein forming the object supporting surface comprises:
forming a substantially concave-shaped object supporting surface relative to the sheath.

26. The method of Claim 23 wherein forming the object supporting surface comprises:
forming a substantially convex-shaped object supporting surface relative to the sheath.

27. The method of Claim 23 wherein the catheter includes two mesh portions operably connected to the sheath, and wherein forming an object supporting surface comprises:
forming a first object supporting surface with the first mesh portion; and
forming a second object supporting surface with the second mesh portion, the second object supporting surface generally opposing the first object supporting surface.
28. The method of Claim 23 wherein the object is a stone, and further comprising:
breaking the stone into pieces; and
using the mesh portion to filter the pieces in the body tract.
29. The method of Claim 28 and further comprising:
sweeping the body tract with the mesh portion to clear the stone pieces from the body tract.
30. The method of Claim 23 wherein providing a catheter having a mesh portion comprises:
providing a catheter having a meshed portion formed of one of:
a mesh net;
braided fibers or wires;
spirally arranged wires or fibers;
woven fibers or wires; and
axially arranged fibers or wires.
31. A catheter for treating an object in a body tract, comprising:
a sheath having a wall, the sheath defining a lumen therethrough and having a first end and a second end;
a mesh secured to the sheath by having a secured portion of the mesh embedded in the wall of the sheath throughout substantially the entire length of the sheath, the mesh having a first mesh portion movable between a retracted position and an expanded position; and
an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to one of the first mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of the first mesh portion between the expanded position and the retracted position.

32. A catheter for treating an object in a body tract, comprising:
a sheath having a wall, the sheath defining a lumen therethrough and having a first end and a second end;

a mesh secured to the sheath by having a secured portion of the mesh embedded in the wall of the sheath, the mesh having a first mesh portion movable between a retracted position and an expanded position; and

an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to one of the first mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of the first mesh portion between the expanded position and the retracted position, wherein the mesh includes a second mesh portion movable between a retracted position and an expanded position.

33. A catheter for treating an object in a body tract, comprising:

a sheath defining a lumen therethrough and having a first end and a second end;

a first mesh portion coupled to the sheath and movable between a retracted position and an expanded position;

a second mesh portion coupled to the sheath nearer the first end than the first mesh portion and moveable between a retracted position and an expanded position, the first and second mesh portions each forming an object supporting surface when in the expanded position; and

an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to one of the first mesh portion, the second mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of at least one of the first and second mesh portions between the expanded position and the retracted position.

34. The catheter of Claim 33 wherein each of the first and second mesh portions comprise one of:

a mesh net;

woven fibers or wires;

braided fibers or wires;

spirally arranged fibers or wires; and

axially arranged fibers or wires.

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